GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1001
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
RELAXATION TO PAKISTANI NATIONALS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given any further relaxations to Pakistani nationals to go back to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India proposes to urge Pakistan to provide reciprocal relaxations for Indian stranded in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) Subsequent to the termination of the Samjhauta Express and the Delhi - Lahore bus service, with effect from January 1, 2002, and so as to enable Pakistani nationals who had entered India on valid visa to return to Pakistan, Government had decided to allow them to go to a third country by air or bus through any authorised check-post. Pakistani nationals were also permitted to cross over to Pakistan by land route at the Wagah check-post (Road).

(c) & (d) No incident of any Indian being stranded in Pakistan on account of closure of land and direct air links has come to Government`s notice so far. However, Government has urged Pakistan authorities to provide reciprocal measures, if needed.